GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5344
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2001
DISPLACED KASHMIRIS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to declare displaced Kashmiri people as internally displaced people under the United Nations Charter of Human Rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any plan has been drawn up for return of Kashmiri Pandits to their native place; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (c): The Government does not propose to declare displaced Kashmiri people as `internally displaced people` because the concept of `internally displaced persons` has several implications, including in the international context for it would include not just those fleeing political persecution but would also cover those displaced by development projects e.g. Sardar Sarovar Project, etc. It is also necessary to maintain a distinction between those who had been displaced in and around 1947 as a result of Partition of the Country and those who have become Indian Citizens shifted over from one area to another area of the State. Further, the term `Migrants` has not come in the way of mitigating their hardships and the Government have not come across any instance which suggests that the word `Migrant` has been mistaken or misinterpreted to the disadvantage of the migrants.

(d) & (e): In October 2000, Government of Jammu and Kashmir submitted and Action Plan for the Return and Rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants involving a total amount of Rs. 2589.73 crores to enable 52,689 families of Kashmiri migrants comprising about 1.25 lakhs souls at present residing in Jammu, Delhi and other States/UTs to return to the Valley. The Action Plan envisages rehabilitation grant per family @ Rs. 1.50 lakhs; grant for repair of houses @ Rs. 1 lakh for houses intact and Rs. 3 lakhs for houses damaged; grant for household goods @ Rs. 0.50 lakhs and furniture @ Rs. 0.50 lakhs; interest free loan @ Rs. 1-2 lakhs per person; compensation for loss of income from agriculture upto Rs. 1.50 lakhs per family; interest free loan of Rs. 1.50 lakhs per family for investment in agricultural operations and sustenance of Rs. 2,000 per month for one year.

The Government of J&K has been asked to initiate steps for persuading migrant families belonging to Srinagar to accept the rehabilitation plan to their rehabilitation.